

fortune, for at forty years of age Mr. Shaw retired from active business to devote the remaining forty-nine years of his life to travel, and later to the active and remarkably intimate creation and management of a garden—that garden of which, because of his intelligent planning and unprecedented forethought and liberality, we are to-day celebrating the silver anniversary.

The advice and counsel of such men as Dr. George Engelmann, Sir William Hooker and Professor Asa Gray was freely sought and as freely given. In this connection I should like to read a letter from Sir Joseph Hooker, written June 17, 1888:

“The Camp, Sunnydale, England.

“My Dear Mr. Shaw:—

“I have just received your most handsome present of Engelmann’s Botanical Works, edited by our dear late friend, Dr. Gray, and I do thank you most heartily, no less for your kind gift than for the effective service to botany that this most valuable contribution to the science renders. It is indeed a noble tribute to a man whose labors as a most conscientious and painstaking botanist have never been surpassed, and I prize it for the sake of the man whom I knew so well and esteemed so highly. I shall never forget my visit to him and to you and the afternoon I spent in your garden and museum at St. Louis, in company with Dr. and Mrs. Gray.

“I have been most interested in all that Dr. Gray told me last year about the noble botanical institution that you have founded and in his hopes that it would be a center of diffusion of knowledge, the influence of which would be felt far and wide.

“I think that he was more proud of your consulting him in the matter of its organization than of any of the many services which he had rendered to American botany, and he certainly regarded his labor with you as the most pleasant episode of his later years and by far the most important.

“Believe me, my dear sir, most faithfully and gratefully yours,

JOSEPH D. HOOKER.”

The country home of Mr. Shaw was built on these grounds in 1849, and the breaking of the prairie for his garden is said to have begun in 1857. There is no record of any formal opening of the Garden to the public, however, the date 1858 on the entrance of the main gate probably being the year it was erected rather than the time it was first opened to visitors. The small “Museum and Library,” as it is designated in the

stone over its entrance, was built in 1859, and this same year the installation of the Bernhardt Herbarium, previously purchased in Europe, marked Mr. Shaw's intention to make the Garden a center for scientific investigation and research. How successfully the founder of the Missouri Botanical Garden incorporated this idea in the document intended for the guidance of those who should administer this bequest, is evidenced by the remark of Judge Medill, one of the first members of the Board of Trustees, who, after the reading of the will, exclaimed: "That is a scientific institution and much should come of its services to botany!"

Mr. Shaw died August 25, 1889, and on September 10 the formal organization of the Board of Trustees, created by his will, took place. This is the anniversary we celebrate, for, as I have indicated, it is the only definite anniversary we have. Certainly as a "botanical institution, public in character," the Missouri Botanical Garden began its existence upon the organization of the trust declared by Mr. Shaw's will.

Two other notable bequests of Mr. Shaw require brief mention at this time, one indicating his desire for further scientific investigation in botany, the other the love for the beautiful in nature and his wish that all might have unlimited opportunity for acquiring and indulging this same passion. I refer, of course, to the endowment of the Henry Shaw School of Botany of Washington University, and the gift of Tower Grove Park to the city of St. Louis. The first is, owing to the broad-minded liberality of the Board of Trustees of the Garden and the untiring and unselfish efforts of its staff, taking a place among similar schools of the kind of which Mr. Shaw would not himself be ashamed. The latter, under the fatherly care of Mr. Gurney, its first and only Superintendent, whom we are proud to call the Head Gardener Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, is nobly fulfilling the purpose for which it was created.

It is proper, then, that this company of scholars should assemble here to do honor to the memory of Henry Shaw, to rejoice with us for the successful completion of twenty-five years of usefulness of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Both personally and in my official capacity I welcome you not only to these ceremonies, but as coöperators in an era of even greater effort and achievement for the cause of the science which Mr. Shaw loved and honored and encouraged.

THE VEGETATION OF MONA ISLAND¹

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New York Botanical Garden

During the progress of the scientific survey of Porto Rico, organized by the New York Academy of Sciences with the aid of the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden and Columbia University, in coöperation with the Porto Rican Insular Government, exploration has been carried out not alone on the mainland of Porto Rico but on several small islands adjacent and politically a part of that colony. Two of these islands lie in the Mona Passage between Porto Rico and Santo Domingo, and being scientifically almost unknown, were made points of examination in February, 1914, when I visited them in company with Mr. John F. Cowell, Director of the Buffalo Botanic Garden, Dr. Frank E. Lutz, Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Zoölogy in the American Museum of Natural History, and Mr. W. E. Hess, Plant Propagator of the Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station at Mayaguez. The trip was made in a sloop chartered at Mayaguez.

Desecheo Island, lying about eighteen miles northwest of Mayaguez, was first visited, and explored during two days; this island is somewhat more than one square mile in area, bordered by rocky coasts, rising abruptly into several hills, and covered with low trees and shrubs. Its flora is essentially identical with that of the drier parts of Porto Rico and of Santo Domingo; the small tree *Morisonia americana* and the snowy cactus (*Mamillaria nivosa*) have, however, not yet been found on the Porto Rican mainland, although both occur on the Island of Culebra east of Porto Rico, and neither of them is known on Santo Domingo. The cactus *Opuntia haitiensis*, plentiful there, is otherwise known only in Hispaniola, and the shrub *Torrubia discolor* of Hispaniola and Cuba has not been found on Porto Rico. The collection made

¹ Issued May 17, 1915.